

wares for the Russian Empire. Vilna, Vitebsk, and Plonjsk exported ready-made clothing. The small Polish town of Brzezina alone supplied, every year, cheap clothing to the value of £700,000-800,000 to the miners in the Don Basin and the workmen in the oil-fields of Baku, Also Minsk, Mogilev, and Homel were important centres of the boot trade. There were many Jewish tanneries in Mogilev and Smorgon (Government of Vilna). Vilna and its surroundings were a centre of the knitting trade; and together with Bobruisk, Zhitomir, and many small towns of Polesie had a thriving furniture trade, exporting to Southern Russia, which is poor in timber. Many more towns had their special industries. . . ."

There were many Jewish workmen in the tobacco and match factories, but practically none among the miners of the Don Basin and in the sugar refineries in the Ukraine, although many of these belonged to Jews. In the textile industries their number was considerable among the hand-weavers, who at the end of the nineteenth century still survived in such centres as Lodz and Bialystok, but small among the workmen in the modern mills.

Considerable numbers of Jews were engaged in money-business, in the building trade, on the construction of railways, and in the timber, grain, and metal trades.

In Galicia, where, in 1914, 800,000 Jews formed 11 per

cent of the population, their economic position was even worse than in Russia. Only a fraction had an approximately secure economic basis, the rest lived on petty trade, the sale of spirituous liquors, pawnbroking, on handicrafts carried on in the most primitive manner for the lowest remuneration, as commercial agents to the big landowners, or had to rely on casual occupations. Emigration alone offered them an escape from misery.

The economic position of the Jews in Roumania, despite their being refused civic rights, was comparatively good till the 'eighties of the nineteenth century. They formed